



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL
Child Welfare Priority Access to Services and Supports (PASS)

Team: Behavioral Health

Lead State Agency/Department: Department of Health Care Services

Action Team Chair: Karen Baylor, DHCS Deputy Director, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

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**Behavioral Health Team
 ACTION PLAN**

***Goal 1: Identification and Eligibility.* At the point of intake, local MH and SUD systems will immediately identify reunification parents and qualify them for services.**

Strategies	Actions
<p><u>Identification Mechanism(s).</u> Establish mechanisms to identify reunification parents at key entry points into local MH and SUD systems.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the various points at which reunification parents enter county MH and SUD systems, where they will need to be identified for Priority Access (for example county social services offices, health/mental health clinics, hot lines, etc.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Map” various scenarios for entry into MH/SUD systems based on different parent profiles (e.g., parolees, homeless parents, etc.) and different service needs. • Identify the most common entry points for reunification parents, where it is most critical to be identified as a PASS reunification parent. 2. Propose a system for identification of reunification parents at those entry points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify options to identify reunification parents based on information available at those entry points. Options may include notification by the CW social worker, query by the MH/SUD intake worker, electronic flagging, etc. (for example, children in CW system are “tagged” on 834 form when referred to a health care provider – but not adults).
<p><u>Eligibility.</u> Assess reunification parents’ eligibility and, if appropriate, enroll them in Medi-Cal, a health plan, etc.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At intake, identify the specific MH and SUD services the parent needs and the options for coverage/eligibility, including normal options (Medi-Cal, etc.) and any additional options specific to the child welfare system. 2. Work with counties to identify processes to expedite enrollment of reunification parents. 3. Propose a system or set of models for expediting eligibility at the county level.

Goal 2: Access to Services. Develop protocols and tools for use by workers in local MH/SUD systems to expedite reunification parents’ entry into services.

Strategies	Actions
<p><u>Identify Current Practices and Models.</u> Work with counties to identify current practices that could be models for PASS.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore current practices and models already identified by the Action Team with which county MH/SUD systems are already families, and which could be adapted to provide priority access for reunification parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of examples have already been identified that are in use in some or all counties (for example, Strengthening Families, Katie A practices, SUD prevention strategies, etc.). 2. Work with counties to identify additional practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather preliminary information from counties already identified by the Action Team. • Contact additional counties to create an initial menu of strategies, practices, and models.
<p><u>Develop Models, Protocols, and Tools.</u> Work with local MH and SUD systems to develop PASS protocols and tools, and to support implementation in county MH and SUD systems.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring county representatives together with members of the Action Team to develop one or more models, appropriate to the needs and circumstances of different counties, for priority access to MH and SUD services. 2. With counties, brainstorm specific steps and processes to implement the model(s) in actual practice in different counties. 3. Develop protocols, tools, and other methods to support implementation of the PASS model(s) at the local level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop easy-to-understand materials for workers in county MH and SUD systems explaining the need for priority access and how to apply the PASS model in daily practice. • Provide web-based support with step-by-step instructions, automated tools, standard forms, etc.
<p><u>Support Implementation.</u> Work with counties to support implementation and evolution of PASS models, protocols, and tools.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize existing mechanisms to disseminate PASS models, protocols, and tools (for example, statewide meetings and conferences, trainings and dissemination mechanisms available through State departments, CWDA, CBHDA, universities, and other organizations). 2. Depending upon availability of funding, conduct PASS-sponsored training and dissemination activities.
<p><u>Identify and Address Barriers.</u> Identify issues and barriers that limit the effectiveness of priority access for reunification parents.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with counties to identify issues and barriers. 2. Address issues and barriers through appropriate channels, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place the structure and systems necessary within the Action Team and/or the larger Child Welfare Council to address issues and barriers at the policy and program level. • Refer legislative or regulatory barriers to the PASS Leadership Team.

Goal 3: Care Coordination. Put in place a Care Coordinator/Case Manager function to expedite reunification parents’ priority access to services and support their ability to complete their court-ordered services within the required timeframe.

Strategies	Actions
<u>Coordination of MH and SUD Services.</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define the care coordination/case management function for reunification parents in the MH and/or SUD systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delineate the key responsibilities in supporting parents at each phase in the process (referral, eligibility, accessing services, completing program requirements, etc.). • Take into consideration current case management and care coordination mechanisms that may already be involved in the parents’ constellation of services (for example, CW social worker, TDM Team Leader, Katie A Intensive Care Coordination Facilitator, Health Navigator, Parole Officer, etc.). 2. Propose a care coordination process that will support reunification parents in achieving priority access to MH and SUD services, and completing those services within the required timeframe.
<u>Coordination with Other Systems.</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through the Leadership Team, work with other PASS Action Teams to identify/develop mechanisms to coordinate services for reunification parents who are served by multiple systems.

Goal 4: Cross-System Education. Provide the BH Team with a better understanding of the child welfare system and other PASS service delivery systems.

Strategies	Actions
NOTE: The PASS Leadership Team may address the need for cross-system education.	
<u>Child Welfare 101.</u>	Provide written information and possibly web-accessible content regarding the basic facts about the child welfare system and parents in reunification, tailored to the needs of the BH Action Team (and other Action Teams, as needed).
<u>Other Systems.</u>	As needed, cross-train some or all of the PASS Action Teams regarding the relevant aspects of their systems.